CHEERLEADERS & CHEVROLET

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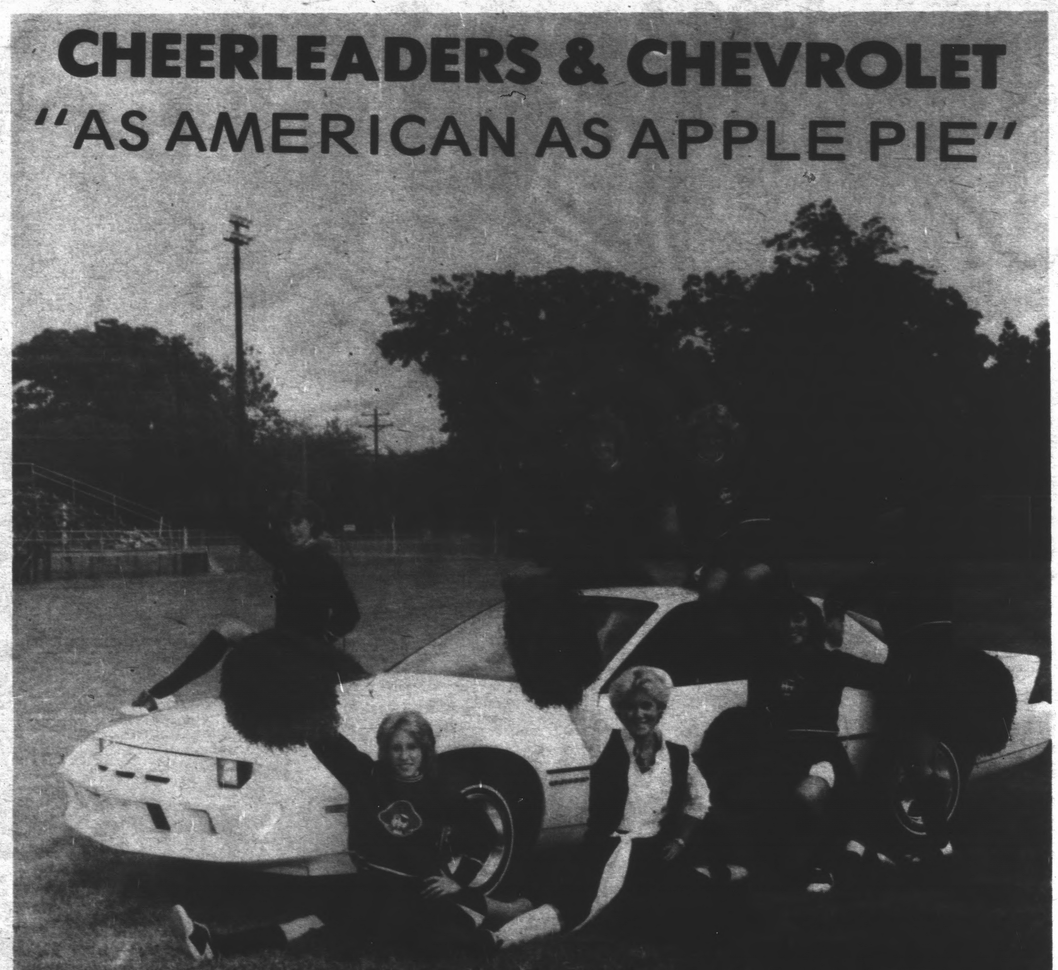

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The 1983 Raider Varsity Football Team

Raiders rebuilding grid team after losing 17 starters from 1982 squad

This will be a year of rebuilding for the Appomattox County High School varsity Raider football team.

Coach Gary Cuccio's Raider squad lost 17 starters from last year's Seminole District championship team.

The only returnees the Raiders will have on this year's squad who saw considerable playing team last season are Todd Scruggs (offensive center), Gary Ferguson (fullback and linebacker), Rick Miller (defensive end), Carl Banks (defensive tackle), and Steve Hamlett, who played defense last year but will likely play offensive in the tailback slot this season.

Despite the devastating loss of starters from last year's squad, Cuccio feels he has talent on this year's team, although most of the players will suffer from a lack of experience, at least at the season's start.

Rick Miller and Carroll Patrick will likely hold down the offensive tackle duties for the Raiders this year, and the offensive guard posts will be filled by Scott Almond, Jay Wingfield, Buddy Hamlett and Roger Willis.

All-district center Todd Scruggs will handle the centering duties for the Raiders again this season. Kevin Kendrick and Russell Walton will likely be the starting tight ends for the Raider team in 1983.

Jeff Fanney, Ron Kelso and Lee Moore will pull duty at the split end position, according to Cuccio, and Ricky Turner and Tyrone Abbitt will play at the slotback post.

Steve Hamlett and Ron Scruggs will play tailback for the Raiders this season, and Gary Ferguson will be joined at the fullback position by Jay Wingfield.

Paul Johnson, who saw some action last year as all-state quarterback Kevin Ferguson's backup, will be the starting signal caller for the Raiders in 1983.

On defense, Todd Scruggs and Ricky Miller will be utilized at the end positions this season, according to Cuccio.

The interior of the defensive line will be held down by Jay Wingfield, Anthony Abbitt, Carl Banks, Buddy Hamlett, and Carroll Hamlett.

The Raider linebacker corps this season will consist of Russell Walton, Gary Ferguson, Scott Almond, Sammy Thornton, and Phil Bollinger.

Cuccio says that the Raiders' defensive secondary this season will be the responsibility of Ricky Turner, Tyrone Abbitt, Ron Kelso, Jeff Fanney, Lee Moore, Ron Scruggs, Ron Guill and Anthony Kelso.

Punters on this year's Raider squad include Paul Johnson and Gary Ferguson, and kickers include Gary Ferguson and Kevin Kendrick.

"We have good quickness in the skill positions, and fairly good quickness overall," notes Cuccio. "As usual, we don't have a particularly big team this year, though," he adds. "Our linemen aren't big, but for linemen, they are fairly quick," the coach says.

"The quickness factor has to be our major strength this season," says the coach. "But we have other advantages, intangibles. Our boys are very competitive, and they have a winning tradition on which to start this season. That has to count for something," explains Cuccio.

As would be expected, Cuccio feels that his team's major weakness this season will be a lack of experience and a lack of depth.

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Raider Varsity Roster

NO.	PLAYER	POS.	HT.	WT.	GR.
10	Alex Almond	QB	5'9"	150	10
12	Paul Johnson	QB	6'0"	153	11
17	Ron Guill	B	5'9"	138	11
18	Larry Shorter	QB	5'11"	143	12
22	Ricky Turner	B	5'6"	164	11
23	Steve Hamlett	TB	5'6"	151	12
25	Anthony Kelso	B	5'6"	120	10
26	James Fleshman	B	5'9"	160	11
28	Lewis Moore	SE	5'11"	132	11
30	Sammy Thorton	LB	5'11"	147	12
33	Ron Scruggs	TB	5'6"	136	10
34	Tom Doss	B	5'7"	155	12
35	Steve Hamlett	DT	5'7"	157	10
37	Brad Mann	DB	5'5"	126	10
39	Ken Watkins	DT	5'4"	132	10
41	Stan Slagle	DT	5'7"	133	10
43	Russell Walton	TE	5'9"	156	10
44	Tyrone Abbitt	B	5'10"	162	12
45	Gary E. Ferguson	FB	5'8"	190	12
50	Buddy Hamlett	G	5'9"	182	12
51	Mike Martin	G	5'10"	150	10
52	Scott Almond	LB	5'11"	190	12
53	Phil Bollinger	C	5'8"	150	11
54	Jeff Williams	C	5'7"	157	10
55	Todd Scruggs	C	6'3"	198	12
57	Roger Willis	G	5'10"	151	11
60	Toby Cunningham	G	5'8"	163	10
51	Sonny Martin	T	6'0"	214	10
62	Billy Caldwell	G	5'8"	146	11
53	Carroll Patrick	G	5'11"	179	11
54	Travis Ford	G	5'11"	178	10
55	J. D. Simpson	T	5'11"	190	12
56	Rick Miller	DE	6'3"	205	12
57	Jay Wingfield	G	5'10"	170	12
58	Gary Y. Ferguson	DE	6'1"	176	12
70	Curtis Pearson	T	5'11"	161	11
71	Anthony Abbitt	T	5'10"	199	12
72	Carl Banks	T	5'10"	206	11
73	Owen Garris	T	6'3"	165	10
78	Jeff O'Brien	T	5'9"	168	11
79	Jesse Johnson	T	5'8"	167	12
80	Chris Robinson	DB	5'10"	134	11
81	Ernest Humbles	DT	5'8"	165	12
82	Ron Kelso	SE	5'10"	146	11
86	Kevin Kendrick	TE	6'1"	173	11
87	Jeff Fanney	SE	5'8"	140	12